

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Kazutaka YANAGITA, et al. Group Art Unit: 1734
 Serial No.: 10/639,460 DEC 20 2004 Examiner: M. Osele
 Filed: August 13, 2003
 For: SAMPLE PROCESSING SYSTEM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop RCE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to Rule 56, applicant hereby calls the attention of the Patent Office to the references listed on the attached Form PTO 1449.

A. Copy(ies) of these references:

are attached.
 were filed in related application U.S. Serial No(s) _____, filed _____, respectively.
 are not required since the application was filed on or after June 30, 2003, and the disclosed references are U.S. Patents or Publications. see MPEP, 8th Edition, Revision No. 2, May 2004, Section 609, Part III A(2)(A).

B. Fees

No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since:

- This document is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the application
- This document is being concurrently filed with the above-identified application
- This document is being concurrently filed with an Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
- This document is being filed prior to a first Office Action
- This document is being filed before the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance (where there has been no prior final action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).

A fee is due for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the receipt of a first office action but before the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance (where there has been no prior final action).

A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance, whichever comes first, but before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) which is enclosed.

A check for the requisite fee of \$180 under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p) is enclosed.

C. Certifications

- I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- I hereby certify that no item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

D. Explanation/Translation of Non-English References

- No explanation of relevancy is required since the attached references are accompanied by a Search Report Communication which was cited in a corresponding PCT or Foreign counterpart application.
- For each of the items listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, an English language translation of that item or a portion thereof or a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is also enclosed.
- For each of the items listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application.
- This document is accompanied by a Related Case Submission listing related pending applications of the above-identified application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii) and copies of each cited pending application.
- This document is accompanied by a Search Report/Communication cited in a corresponding PCT or foreign counterpart application.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4590US2. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: 12/20/2004By: John A. Harroun

John A. Harroun
Registration No. 46,339
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101



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FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Attorney Docket:
1232-4590US2

Serial No.:
10/639,460

Applicant:
Kazutaka YANAGITA, et al.

Filing Date:
August 13, 2003

Group Art Unit:
1734

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Patent Number	Publication Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date
	AA	5,700,127	12/23/97	Harada, et al.			
	AB	5,803,932	9/8/98	Akimoto, et al.			
	AC	4,985,722	1/15/91	Ushijima, et al.			
	AD	5,746,565	5/5/98	Tepolt			
	AE	5,292,393	3/8/94	Maydan, et al.			
	AF	2003/0116275	6/26/03	Yanagita, et al.			
	AG	6,527,031	3/4/03	Yanagita, et al.			
	AH	6,629,539	10/7/03	Yanagita, et al.			
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Patent Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Translation
	AL	0 867 917 A2 ✓	9/30/98	EP			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	AM	WO 98/02911 ✓	1/22/98	PCT			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	AN	0 843 340 A2 ✓	10/23/97	EP			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	AO	0 837 494 A2 ✓	4/22/98	EP			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	AP						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Papers, etc.)

AR	
AS	
AT	

Examiner _____ Date Considered _____

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609.
Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered.
Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

RELATED CASE SUBMISSION	Attorney Docket: 1232-4590US2		Serial No.: 10/639,460
	Applicant: Kazutaka YANAGITA, et al.		
	Filing Date: August 13, 2003	Group Art Unit: 1734	

RELATED PENDING APPLICATIONS

Examiner Initial		Serial No.	Filing Date	Inventor(s)	Patent No. (if applicable)	Issue Date (if applicable)
	1	10/330,705 (submitted as Publ. No. 2003/0116275)	Dec. 27, 2002	Yanagita, et al.	Publication No.: 2003/0116275	Publ. Date: June 26, 2003
	2	09/434,740 (previously submitted)	Nov. 11, 2002	Yanagita	6,527,031	March 4, 2003
	3	09/434,663 (previously submitted)	Nov. 5, 1999	Yanagita	6,629,539	Oct. 7, 2003
	4	09/399,643 (previously submitted)	Sept. 20, 1999	Ohmi, et al.		
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